THE FOURTH DAY.

24th February 1914.

The Assembly met at 12 noon on Tuesday, the 24th February 1914.

26. The need for an amendment in the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, III of 1076.

Mr. P. A. Adicha Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherri) said that it was desirable to amend the Regulation so as to invest the Committee with the power to auction the right of selling meat and fish in the town and to collect and credit the sale proceeds to the Town Fund. Under the existing law, the Committee had not the power to lease the right.

Mr. M. K. Kunju Kadir Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Alwaye) requested that the Regulation be modified, so as to give power to the Committee to open public cart-stands in the town and levy tax on them. There was a provision to that effect in the Madras Municipal Act, and he prayed for the introduction of a like provision in Regulation III of 1076.

Dewan's reply.—The law is being amended accordingly.

27. Certain amendments needed in the Court Fees Regulation.

Mr. Vadakkan Ulahannan Ulahannan (Member, Meenachil taluk) said that the new Court Fees Regulation, VI of 1087, caused very great hardship to the people. He particularly referred to the following provisions.

(1) *Schedule I, Article IX.*—Under the expression "copy of any statement, report or *the like*," every conceivable record was brought and no record was accepted in any Court without a half-rupee stamp on it. The poor people therefore found it difficult to obtain justice. The Article should therefore be repealed.

(2) *Schedule II, Article I (b).*—Though the Article exempted from fee all complaints relating to offences for which the Police could arrest without warrant, in some Courts the fee was recovered even in those cases, on the alleged ground that the complaints were brought in that way with the object of evading payment of court fees. Further, the Article fell very heavily on the poor and relief in Criminal Courts became impossible to them. He suggested that the Article should be repealed.

(3) The Courts also compelled the submission of separate applications for copies of each record such as order, decree, judgment &c. In the Revenue offices, a half-rupee stamp paper had to be produced with every application for copies. Another half-rupee stamp had to be affixed to each of the records at the time of filing them. The Courts also would not permit a whole set of records obtained from Revenue office on *one* application being filed with one half-rupee stamp on it, but they insisted on a half-rupee stamp to be affixed to each record in that set, such as copy of chitta, survey plan, *thandaper* &c. The different Courts interpreted the several Articles of the Schedule in their own way, and the Regulation also did not contain unmistakable provisions to check their vagaries. It was absolutely necessary to remove the ambiguity from the Schedule and make the wording of the Articles precise and their application uniform.

(4) In the Revenue offices, vakalats had to be presented on a general stamp paper for half-a-rupee. In addition, the Courts were insisting on a half-

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